

# HOME GENERATED MEDICAL WASTE



**Each day, up to 700,000 syringes, needles and lancets are used in New Jersey homes.**

Home generated medical waste includes used sharps as a result of a medical care in the home through self-administration practices or by another person not receiving money for their services (not a paid medical professional).

The proper disposal of home generated medical waste is an important step to help ensure the health and safety of everyone in your home and community.

The improper disposal of home generated medial waste poses a potential health hazard from accidental needle sticks. Loose syringes thrown into household trash can be misused if they fall into the wrong hands. Improperly disposed needles can also injure small children, pets and wildlife.



## How Can You Safely Disposal of Your Syringes



- ❖ You can contact your doctors office to see if he/she will dispose at their office on your behalf.
- ❖ You can find a Safe Syringe Disposal program in your area. Log onto <http://www.safeneedledisposal.org/>. To find one close to you.

Pet owners who use needles to give medication to their pets should follow the same disposal guidelines for humans.



**NorthWest Bergen**  
Regional Health Commission

*Good Public Health Grows a Stronger Community*

# HOW TO DISPOSE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD TRASH



**Home Generated Medical Waste can be disposed in your daily trash, if you follow these steps.**

1. **Place sharps in a rigid container.** Use a container with a screw on cap such as an empty laundry detergent bottle. Do not use a clear container. Please do not use a coffee can as the lid is too thin and can come off.
2. Do **NOT** try to remove, bend, break or recap needles used by another person.
3. **Place a large warning label on the container with permanent marker** such as SYRINGES/NEEDLES DO NOT RECYCLE! This helps to ensure the container is not accidentally mingled in with recyclable materials.



- ❖ **Fill the container** with medical sharps until it is only about 3/4 full. Do not overstuff as this can increase pressure on the lid and cause a release of medical sharps.
- ❖ While waiting for a full container, keep it out of reach of children and pets. Always wash your hands after handling or touching medical sharps.
- ❖ After the container is full, **seal the bottle** with the original cap and wrap duct tape over the cap.
- ❖ **Dispose** of the sealed, full container with your household trash. **DO NOT** place the container in the recycling bin.

## For Additional Information:

- New Jersey Department of Health—Public Health Sanitation and Safety Program (609)826-4941 or [www.state.nj.us/health/phss](http://www.state.nj.us/health/phss)
- Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission (201) 445-7217 or [www.nwbrhc.org](http://www.nwbrhc.org)

